

His Majesties  
MOST GRACIOUS  
S P E E C H,  
Together with the  
Lord Chancellors,  
To both Houses of  
PARLIAMENT,  
On *Monday, October 27. 1673.*

By His Majesties Special Command.



LONDON,

Printed by the Assigns of *John Bell* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers  
to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1673.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

NOTES

OF THE

U. S. TREASURY

DEPARTMENT

RECEIPTS

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PAID TO THE ORDER OF

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# His Majesties

Most Gracious

# S P E E C H.

My Lords and Gentlemen,



*I* Thought this day to have welcomed You with an honourable Peace; My preparations for the War, and Condescensions at the Treaty, gave Me great reason to believe so: but the Dutch have disappointed Me in that expectation, and have treated My Ambassadors at Cologne, with the Contempt of Conquerors, and not as might be expected from men in their Condition.

They have other thoughts then Peace.

This obligeth Me to move you again for a Supply, the Safety and Honor of the Nation necessarily requiring it: It must be one proportionable to the Occa-

sion; and I must tell you besides, that if I have it not speedily, the Mischief will be irreparable in My preparations for the next Spring: The Great Experience I have had of you Gentlemen of the House of Commons, will not suffer Me to believe, that the Artifices of Our Enemies can possibly divert you from giving Me this Supply, or that you can fail of adjusting the proportion of it.

I hope I need not use many words to persuade you, that I am steady in maintaining all the Professions and Promises I have made you concerning Religion and Property: And I shall be very ready to give you fresh instances of My Zeal, for preserving the established Religion and Laws, as often as any occasion shall require.

In the last place, I am highly concerned to commend to your Consideration and Care the Debt I owe the Goldsmiths, in which very many other of My good Subjects are involved; I heartily recommend their condition to you, and desire your assistance for their relief.

There is more that I would have you informed of, which I leave to the Chancellor.

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THE  
 Lord Chancellor's  
 SPEECH  
 To both Houses of  
 PARLIAMENT.

*My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens and Burgeses  
 of the House of Commons,*



Is Majesty had reason to expect,  
 That He should have met you  
 with the *Olive-Branch of Peace* :  
 His *Naval Preparations*, greater  
 then in any former years, toge-  
 ther with the *Land Forces* He  
 had ready for any Occasion, gave Him assurance  
 to obtain it before this time. And the rather,  
 because His aims were not *Conquest*, unless by ob-  
 stinacy inforced ; But His *Condescensions* at the  
*Treaty* have been so great, That the very *Me-*  
*diators* have declared they were not reasonably

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to be refused. He could not be *King of Great Britain* without securing the *Dominion* and *Property* of His *Own Seas*; The first by an *Article* clear, and not elufory of the *Flagg*; The other by an *Article*, that preserved the *right* of the *Fifhing*, but gave the *Dutch* permission, as *Tenants*, under a small *Rent*, to enjoy, and continue that *gainful Trade* upon His *Coasts*. The *King* was obliged, for the *Secur-ity* of a lasting *Peace*, as also by the *Laws* of *Gratitude*, and *Relation*, to see the *House* of *Orange* fetled, and the *Loveſtein*, that *Carthagi-nian* party, brought down. Neither in this did the *King* inſiſt beyond what was moderate, and agreeable to their *Government*: And what the *Prince's* ancestors enjoyed amongſt them. Beſides theſe, there was neceſſary to the *Trade* of *England*, that there ſhould be a fair *Adjustment* of *Commerce* in the *East-Indies*; where the *Kings* Demands were *reasonable*, and according to the *Law* of *Nations*; and their *Practiſe* of late years hath been *Exorbitant*, and *Oppreſſive*, ſuitable onely to their *Power* and *Inter-eſt*, and *deſtructive*, if continued, to our *East-India-Com-pany*. Theſe were all, of any moment, the *King* inſiſted on; as judging aright, That that *Peace* that was *reasonable*, *juſt*, and *fair* to both parties, would be *ſacred* and *durable*. And that by this means, He ſhould depreſs the *Inter-eſt*, and *Reputation* of that *Loveſtein* party amongſt them, who ſucked in with their milk an inve-terate hatred to *England*, and transmit it to their



their posterity, as a *distinguishing Character*; wherein they place their *Loyalty* to their *Country*.

In return to this *Candid*, and *fair proceeding* on the *Kings* part, His Majesty assures you, he hath received *nothing*, but the most *scornful*, and *contemptuous treatment* imaginable; Papers delivered in to the *Mediators*, owned by them to be stuffed with so unhandsome Language, that they were *ashamed*, and *refused* to shew them: Never agreeing to any *Article* about the *Flagg*, that was clear or plain: Refusing any *Article* of the *Fishing*, but such a one, as might sell them the right of *Inheritance*, for an inconsiderable sum of money; though it be a *Royalty* so *inherent in the Crown of England*, that I may say, (with His Majesties pardon for the Expression) He cannot sell it. The *Article* of the *Prince of Orange*, and the *Adjustment* of the *East India Trade* had neither of them any better success; And to make all of a piece, they have this last week sent a *Trumpetter* with an *Address* to His Majesty, being a deduction of their several *Offers of Peace*, as they call them, and their desires for it now; but it is both in the *Penning* and the *Timeing* of it, plainly an *Appeal* to His Majesties People against Himself; And the King hath commanded me to tell you, He is resolved to joyn issue with them, and Print both their *Address*, and His *Answer*, that His People and the *World* may see how notorious *falsehoods* and *slights* they endeavour to put upon Him.

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In a word, in *England*, and in all other *Places*, and to all other *Persons* of the *World*, they declare they offer all *things* to obtain a *Peace* from the *King of England*: But to *Himself*, *His Ministers*, the *Mediators*, or *His Plenipotentiaries*, it may with confidence and truth be affirmed, that to this day; nay, even in this last *Address* they have offered nothing. They desire the *Kings Subjects* would believe they beg for *Peace*, whilst their true request is, onely to be permitted to be once *Masters of the Seas*; Which they hope, if they can subsist at *Land*, length of time may give them: And if once got, is never to be lost; Nor can it be bought by any *State* or *Empire*, at too great a rate. And what *Security* their *Agreement* with us in *Religion* will afford, when they shall have the *Power*, former *Instances* may give *Demonstration* of. *Foynt Interests* have often secured the *Peace* of differing *Religions*, but agreeing *Professions* hath hardly an example of preserving the *Peace* of different *Interests*.

This being the true and natural state of things, His Majesty doth with great assurance throw himself into the Arms of You His Parliament, for a Supply suitable to this great *Affair* He is engaged in. When you consider we are an *Island*, 'tis not *Riches* nor *Greatness* we contend for; yet those must attend the *Success*; But 'tis our very *Beings* are in question: We fight *pro aris & focis* in this War. We are no longer *Freemen*, being *Islanders*, and *Neighbours*, if they Master us at *Sea*. There is not so lawful or commendable a *jealousie* in the *World*, as an *Englishmans*



*mans*, of the growing Greatness of any *Prince* or *State at Sea*. If you permit the *Sea*, our *British Wife*, to be *ravished*, an eternal mark of *Infamy* will *stick upon us*; Therefore I am commanded earnestly to recommend to you, not onely the *Proportion*, but the *Time* of the *Supply*. For unless you think of it *early*, it will not be serviceable to the chief end of setting out a *Fleet* betimes the next *Spring*.

As for the next part of the *Kings Speech*, I can add nothing to what His Majesty hath said. For as to *Religion*, and *Property*, His *heart* is with your *heart*, perfectly with your *heart*. He hath not yet learned to deny you any thing; and He believes your *Wisdom* and *Moderation* is such, He never shall. He asks of you to be at *Peace in Him*, as He is in *You*, and He shall never deceive you.

There is one word more, I am commanded to say concerning that *Debt* is owing to the *Goldsmiths*. The King holds himself in *Honour* and *Conscience* obliged to see them satisfied. Besides, you all know how many *Widows*, *Orphans*, and *particular persons*, this publick Calamity hath overtaken; and how hard it is, that so *disproportionable* a *burthen* should fall upon them, even to their utter *Ruine*. The whole Case is so well and generally known, that I need say no more. Your *great Wisdoms* hath not done it at the first, peradventure that the *Trade* of the *Banker* might be *suppressed*; which end is now attained. So that now your *great Goodness* may restore to those poor people, and the many innocent ones that are concerned with them, some life and assurance of *Payment* in a competent time.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

I have no more in Command, and therefore shall conclude with my own hearty Prayers, That this Session may equal, nay exceed the Honour of the last; That it may perfect what the last begun for the *Safety of this King, and Kingdom*; That it may be ever famous for having established, upon a durable Foundation, our *Religion, Laws, and Properties*; That we may not be tossed with boisterous Winds, nor overtaken by a sudden dead Calm: But that a gentle fair Gale may carry you in a steady, even, and resolved way into the Ports of *Wisdom and Security*.

## L O N D O N,

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